

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. In a computer, a method for preventing windows from being displayed
5 comprising:

detecting the launching of a new window;

consulting a changeable set of criteria to determine if the window is of a
certain type;

allowing the window to be displayed if the window is of a first type; and

preventing the window from being displayed if the window is of a second
type and not of the first type.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the set of criteria includes a set of rules.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the set of criteria includes a set of domain
names.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the second type includes a pop-up window.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the second type includes a pop-under
window.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the second type includes a window that
does not have a menu bar.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein the second type includes a window that
does not have a tool bar.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein the second type includes a window launched when a web site is exited.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein the second type includes a window navigating to an About:Blank.

10. The method of claim 1 wherein the second type includes a window launched within a short period of time after a user navigates to another web page.

11. The method of claim 1 wherein the second type includes a window launched by another window that is to be closed.

12. The method of claim 1 wherein the first type includes a window that has a password field.

13. The method of claim 1 wherein the first type includes a window that has a login field.

14. The method of claim 1 wherein the first type includes a window initiated by a user.

15. The method of claim 1 wherein the first type includes a window navigating to an address that previously appeared on a status bar of a web browser.

16. The method of claim 1 wherein the first type includes a window that is being launched at least a second time.

17. The method of claim 1 wherein the first type includes a window originating from a secure domain.

18. The method of claim 1 wherein the first type includes a window appearing when a main browser window has not changed for some time.

19. The method of claim 3 wherein the first type includes a window from a domain included in the set of domain names.

20. The method of claim 3 wherein the set of domain names includes locally entered domain names.

21. The method of claim 3 wherein the set of domain names includes domain names received from a remotely located computer.

22. In a computer, a memory comprising:

a listener, the listener including computer-readable program code for receiving event notifications from a web browser;

a window analyzer, the window analyzer including computer-readable program code for detecting whether a window is of a certain type;

an exclusion list, the exclusion list including a set of domain names wherein blocking of windows is disabled; and

a rules list, the rules list including a set of rules for determining whether a window is a good window or a bad window.

23. The memory of claim 22 wherein the exclusion list may be updated by downloading a new set of domain names from a server computer.

24. The memory of claim 22 wherein the exclusion list may be locally updated by a user.

25. The memory of claim 22 wherein the rules list may be updated by downloading a new set of rules from a server computer.

5 26. A computer-readable storage medium comprising:

a listener, the listener including computer-readable program code for receiving event notifications from a web browser;

a window analyzer, the window analyzer including computer-readable program code for detecting whether a window is of a certain type; and

an updateable rules list, the rules list including a set of rules for determining whether a window is a good window or a bad window.

27. In a computer, a method for processing windows comprising:

detecting the launching of a new window;

determining whether the window is a good window or a bad window;

15 allowing the window to be displayed if the window is a good window;

preventing the window from being displayed if the window is a bad window and not a good window; and

allowing the window to be displayed if the window is neither a good window nor a bad window.

20 28. The method of claim 27 further comprising:

allowing the window to be displayed if the window is from a domain
included in a list of domain names.

29. The method of claim 27 wherein the act of determining whether the
window is a good window or a bad window is performed by consulting a rules list that
5 includes rules for detecting a bad window and rules for detecting a good window.

30. The method of claim 29 wherein the rules list is updateable.

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